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Appl. No. 10/775,434
Amendment
August 24, 2006**REMARKS**

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. Claim 18 has been amended via this paper to more clearly put the case in condition for allowance and obtain a notice of allowance. The amendment to claim 18 should in no way be construed as being made to distinguish the prior art, therefore, the scope of all claims and claim limitations shall be construed to protect all equivalent structures and functions.

The Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's efforts in review of this application and to express appreciation for the timeliness of the Official Office Action dated May 24, 2006. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 19-24 and for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 5, 6, 11, 14 and 15.

Turning now to the DETAILED ACTION portion of the Official Office Action, paragraph 3, the Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,469,187, to Yaniv. The Applicant respectfully submits that the apparatus of Yaniv, like all other known does not teach, suggest or provide motivation for an information display, comprising: a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of at least one of the following; the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one

Page 9 of 14

Appl. No. 10/775,434
Amendment
August 24, 2006

anticipated viewer and a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer, said liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as recited in claim 18 of the current application. Therefore, the Applicant submits that claim 18 is in condition for allowance over the art of record.

Turning now to paragraph 5 the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Number 2005/0007645 A1, to Tonar et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application Number 2005/0007645, to Weller et al. With regard to claim 1, the Examiner has pointed to page 21, paragraphs 184 and 185, page 25, paragraph 206, lines 9-13 and page 29, paragraph 239, lines 3-8 of Tonar et al. as being of particular relevance. The Applicant respectfully submits that known backlit liquid crystal displays do not have backlighting associated with each individual character that is independently controllable; the backlighting in known liquid crystal displays is turned on and off collectively not per character. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror assembly, comprising: an information display at least partially positioned behind a reflective element with respect to an anticipated viewer; said information display comprising a negative mode, backlit, liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of

Appl. No. 10/775,434
Amendment
August 24, 2006

a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Since claims 2-4 and 7 depend from claim 1 the Applicant submits that claims 1-4 and 7 are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 9, the Examiner has pointed to page 21, paragraphs 184 and 185, page 25, paragraph 206, lines 9-13, page 29, paragraph 239, lines 3-8 and page 30, paragraph 249, lines 5-6 and paragraph 253, lines 4-5 of Tonar et al. as being of particular relevance. The Applicant respectfully submits that known liquid crystal displays do not incorporate display drivers having spare outputs that are utilized to control associated backlighting. The backlighting is turned on collectively, independent of the liquid crystal display characters via means other than the display driver. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for an information display, comprising: a liquid crystal display having at least two characters with each character having associated backlighting; and a display driver having more outputs than said liquid crystal display has characters, wherein at least one output of said display driver is used to control said backlighting as recited in claim 9 of the current application. Furthermore, in that claim 10 depends from claim 9, the Applicant submits that claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 12, the Applicant submits that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror

Appl. No. 10/775,434
Amendment
August 24, 2006

assembly, comprising: a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of the reflectivity of said automatically dimming reflective element, said liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as now recited.

Furthermore, in that claims 13 and 16-17 depend from claim 12, the Applicant submits that claims 12, 13 and 16-17 are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 25, the Applicant submits that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror assembly, comprising: a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor, said liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as now recited. Furthermore, in that claim 26 depends from claim 25, the Applicant submits that claims 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 27, the Applicant submit that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror assembly, comprising: a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming

Appl. No. 10/775,434
Amendment
August 24, 2006

reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an glare light sensor, said liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as now recited. Therefore, the Applicant submits that claim 27 is in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 28, the Applicant submits that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror assembly, comprising: a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the contrast of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor, said liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as now recited. Furthermore, in that claim 29 depends from claim 28, the Applicant submits that claims 28 and 29 are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

With regard to claim 30, the Applicant submits that Tonar et al., Weller et al. or the combination do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a rearview mirror assembly, comprising: a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the contrast of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an glare light sensor, said liquid crystal display having at least two

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characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character as now recited. Therefore, the Applicant submits that claim 30 is in condition for allowance over the art of record.

The Applicant submits that claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance and that no new subject matter is introduced via this paper. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please contact the undersigned should additional information be required.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: Gentex Corporation

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Date

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